

Serial No.: 09/619,442

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No.: N.C. 79,834

REMARKS

Claims 15-26, 29, 31, 33, 34, and 37-39 are pending in the application. Claims 20-25 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election of species requirement. Claims 35 and 35 are cancelled by this amendment without prejudice. No claims are presently allowed.

Interview Summary

Applicants' representative met with Examiner Fuller on 05/17/2005. The meaning of the limitation "transform the source material into the material of interest" was discussed, but agreement was not reached. It was agreed that the independent claims would be allowable if the limitation that the source material is homogeneous from claims 35 and 36 were incorporated therein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-17, 26, 29, 31, and 33-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Joyce, Jr. (US 5,292,559) in view of Gnanamuthu (US 4,716,270).

The invention of claim 15 is a method for creating a deposit of a material of interest on a receiving substrate. A first laser is directed through a laser-transparent target substrate having a coating that comprises a homogenous source material to cause the source material to be removed from the surface of the support and deposited on a receiving substrate. One or more monolayers of the source material adjacent to the target substrate are vaporized without vaporizing the rest of the source material. A second laser is directed to strike the deposited source material to transform the source material into the material of interest. Claim 26 is to a similar process, reciting a pulsed laser beam and a laser beam instead of a first laser and a second laser.

Joyce discloses a method of laser transfer using a laser transparent substrate with a laser absorptive polymer film and a metal multi-layered composite on the film (abstract). All or a portion of the film is vaporized by the laser, which transfers the metal composite to a substrate. A portion of the film may be transferred with the metal composite. (col. 3, lines 18-27).

Gnanamuthu discloses a method of scribing a polymer maskant applied to a metal substrate by impinging a laser beam on the maskant (abstract).

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In order to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references must disclose each limitation of the claims. Neither reference discloses a homogenous source material as recited in claims 15 and 26. As agreed in the interview of 05/17/2005, this amendment overcomes the rejection. Applicants note that "homogenous" includes mixtures that are uniform throughout, such as particles with liquids in a single layer, as repeatedly recited in the dependent claims and in the specification (page 10, lines 2-3), as opposed to the layered structures of the references.

Claims 15-17, 26, 29, 31-34, and 37-39 depend from and contain all the limitation of claims 15 and 26 respectively, and are asserted to distinguish from the references in the same manner as claims 15 and 26.

Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Joyce in view of Gnanamuthu and further in view of Hirano (US 6,099,626).

Claim 18 recites that the source material is a homogeneous mixture of an organometallic compound and a metal powder. Claim 19 recites several specific mixtures of metal powder and organometallic compound. Hirano discloses an ink transfer system including a photo-thermal converter (col. 4, lines 18-23).

As above, none of the reference discloses a homogenous source material as recited in claims 15 and 26.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event that a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0281,

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and in the event that there is a credit due, please credit Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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